



GOSFORTH GARDEN VILLAGE BOWLING CLUB
CONSTITUTION AND RULES

1. PREAMBLE

- 1.1 Gosforth Garden Village Bowling Club (hereinafter referred to as the Club) is a section of Gosforth Garden Village Association (hereinafter referred to as the Association).
- 1.2 The main purposes of the Club are to provide facilities for and to promote participation in the amateur sport of bowls in the Gosforth Garden Village community and surrounding areas.
- 1.3 The Club is responsible for the management of its own affairs subject only to:
 - a. the Bowling Green, including the land which immediately adjoins it, being properly utilised as a Club, which has been playing bowls as a major part of its activities;
 - b. 20% of members' subscriptions or such other amount as agreed with the Association being transferred to Association accounts annually;
 - c. the Club being represented by a sectional member at the Association Management Committee meetings, The Club will appoint this sectional member.

2. COMMITTEE

- 2.1 The affairs of the Club will be conducted by an Executive Committee of whom four members can form a quorum.
- 2.2 The Executive Committee will be comprised of the of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Association Sectional Representative, Assistant Secretary, Green Warden, Match Secretary, Competition Secretary and Ladies Team Representative if such positions are in existence and occupied
- 2.3 The Committee and Office Bearers will be elected annually. Any bona fide members may be elected to hold more than one office at any one time. The exceptions to this rule are that no member can hold the offices of President, Club Secretary, Treasurer or Green Warden simultaneously.
- 2.4 The Selection Committee for all League fixtures and Friendly matches to consist of at least two members. The Match Secretary may attend (ex-officio only) at all Selection Committee meetings.
- 2.5 All paid up members of the Club are eligible for election or re-selection at the Annual General Meeting, but the Executive Committee is empowered to appoint sub-committees for specific functions.

3. MEETINGS

- 3.1 An Annual General Meeting will be held between 1 and 31 October of which all paid up members will receive at least 14 days' notice. In addition to the

Executive Committee being elected at this meeting at least one Auditor will be appointed.

- 3.1 Extraordinary General Meetings may be called at any time by the Executive Committee or by seven paid up members of the Club on requisition to the Secretary, in writing, giving 28 days' notice 14 days' notice of an Extraordinary Meeting will be given to all members.
- 3.2 The Executive Committee will meet as often as is deemed necessary by the President and/or Secretary, but at least once in each six months (ie. 1 January to 30 June and 1 July to 31 December).
- 3.3 At any General Meeting ten paid up Members are sufficient to form a quorum.
- 3.4 A majority of paid up (see 5.3) members at any meeting (Executive or General) will determine the question and in the case of equality of votes, the President will have a second or deciding vote.
- 3.5 Items for inclusion in the Agenda should be forwarded in writing to the Secretary at least 28 days before the General Meeting.

4. FINANCE

- 4.1 Both a deposit and current bank accounts will be held in the name of the Club into which all monies will be paid except a reasonable amount of cash held by the Treasurer for the efficient running of the Club.
- 4.2 The Committee will appoint at least two Committee members as signatories for the bank accounts. It may name and authorise any of those signatories to operate the accounts as a sole signatory or approved sole user of electronic banking systems, subject to the bank's regulations.
- 4.3 The Financial Year will end on 30 September and audited accounts will be available for inspection at the Annual General Meeting.
- 4.4 All surplus income or profits are to be reinvested in the Club. No surpluses or assets will be distributed to members or third parties.

5. MEMBERSHIP

- 5.1 Membership of the Club shall be open to anyone interested in the sport on application, regardless of sex, age, disability, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or other beliefs, except as a necessary consequence of the requirements of bowls.
- 5.2 The Club may have different classes of membership and subscription on a non-discriminatory and fair basis.
- 5.3 The Club will keep subscriptions at levels that will not pose a significant obstacle to people participating.

- 5.4 The Club Committee may refuse membership, or remove it, only for good cause such as conduct or character likely to bring the Club or sport into disrepute. Appeal against refusal or removal may be made to a formal meeting of the Club's members.
- 5.5 On joining the Club and paying the appropriate fees, members will also become automatically full or associate members of the Association as appropriate in accordance with the rules of the Association.
- 5.6 A paid-up member is defined as one who has paid the membership subscription in full for the current (see 6.1) Club year. Nevertheless, a member will have full voting rights up to 31 March if the previous year's subscription has been paid.
- 5.7 Any member intending to vote by proxy must notify the Secretary in writing of the name of the member appointed to vote for him/her along with written instructions as to how the proxy member is to cast his/her vote.
- 5.8 Members may belong to two Clubs however, their priorities must be to Gosforth Garden Village Bowling Club as their first club but may only play on a casual or non-conflicting basis at their second Club.
- 5.9 For the specific purpose of playing for the Ladies Northern Women's team, if required, two named players who are not full members of the Club, may become temporary Club members for the fee of 25% of the Club fee (payable to the ladies' section of the Club). Their names will be submitted to the Northern Women as playing members, but they will not play instead of any other available full Club member.

6. SUBSCRIPTIONS

- 6.1 The Club year is from 1 April to 31 March and subscriptions are due by the day of the Spring General Meeting
- 6.2 Subscriptions not paid by the day of the Spring General Meeting will be deemed to be lapsed membership.
- 6.3 New members' subscriptions should be paid before joining.
- 6.4 Any new member joining after mid-season (ie. 1 July) may do so by paying 50% of the Annual fee.
- 6.5 Subscriptions, including temporary membership fees, will be decided at any General Meeting.

7. TIMES OF PLAY

- 7.1 General play is normally permitted between 13.30 hours and dusk on any day including Sundays, **subject to the satisfactory condition of the green**, Club

match dates and at other times on Special Event days organised or authorised by the Executive Committee. **The Green Warden will determine the satisfactory condition of the Green.**

8. VISITORS

- 8.1 On payment of the appropriate fee in advance, a visitor can be accepted as a temporary member for one day of play.
- 8.2 A visitor should be introduced by a full Club member, who will be responsible for the collection of the fee.
- 8.3 Visitors living “locally” to be limited to six visits prior to deciding whether to become members. Any visitors’ fees paid would be offset against membership fee. If someone joined after mid-season (ie. 1 July), the joining fee would be reduced to 50% of the annual amount.
- 8.4 Bowlers on holiday from further afield would be allowed to play, beyond the six days referred to in 8.3, at the discretion of the Committee.
- 8.5 The Club Secretary is authorised to “hire” a rink to non-Club members for a time not normally used by members.
- 8.6 No visitors will be allowed on the Green when League Fixtures are being played.

9. GENERAL

- 9.1 It is expected that members will behave in a manner that will not bring the Club into disrepute - swearing, loud arguments and other matters liable to give offence will be avoided. In particular, consideration should be given to residents’ immediately adjoining Association land.
- 9.2 Correct footwear should be worn by all personnel whilst on the Green, whether playing or not. Trainers and other shoes with heels or grooves in the soles are not permitted.

10. PERSONS AUTHORISED TO ACT

- 10.1 Only the elected officers of the Executive Committee will have the power to act for or on behalf of the Club.

11. ALTERATION TO THE RULES

- 11.1 The Club will have the power in General Meetings to amend, alter or add to the Constitution and Rules.
- 11.2 Any proposal to amend, alter or add to the existing Constitution and Rules must be notified to all Club members at least 14 days prior to any General

Meeting at which a vote of members will be taken to amend, alter or add to the Rules or the Constitution.

- 11.3 The Executive Committee will have the power to amend, alter or add to the Rules and to make arrangements they may deem expedient for the purpose of carrying on or promoting the welfare of the Club. Any such alterations will have immediate effect but must be submitted for the approval of the members at the first following General Meeting.

12. INTERPRETATION OF RULES

- 12.1 The interpretation of the Constitution and Rules document and rulings on matters not covered by the Rules will be the responsibility of the Executive Committee.

13. INDEMNITY

- 13.1 Each member of the Club shall (to the extent that such person is not entitled to recover under any policy of insurance) be entitled to be indemnified out of any and all funds available to the Club, which may lawfully be so applied, against all costs, expenses and liabilities whatsoever incurred by such person in the proper execution and discharge of duties undertaken on behalf of the Club or arising there from or incurred in good faith in the purported discharge of such duties.

14. WINDING UP

- 14.1 If the Club by a decision of a meeting of members ceases to function, subject to Clause 14 (2) the Management Committee of the Association should be informed as soon as possible and on dissolution of the Club any remaining assets of the Club shall be given or transferred to the Association.
- 14.2 At the date of dissolution of the Club should the Association no longer be a registered charity, any remaining assets of the Club shall be given or transferred to another registered community amateur sports club, a registered charity or the sport's governing body for use by them in related community sports